
AEDC

Arnold Engineering Development Center
Arnold Air Force Base, Tenn. 37389
An Air Force Materiel Command Test Facility



Camp Forrest



Camp Forrest, located in Tullahoma, Tenn., was constructed as one of the Army's largest training bases during the World War II period between 1941 and 1946.

The camp, named after Civil War cavalryman General Nathan Bedford Forrest, was originally named Camp Peay. Camp Peay was named after 1920's Tennessee Governor Austin Peay and built east of Tullahoma, Tenn. as a National Guard Camp in 1926. Camp Peay covered 1,040 acres. Camp Forrest covered 85,000 acres located just beyond the old Camp Peay.

The camp was a training area for infantry, artillery, engineer, and signal organizations. It also served as a hospital center and temporary encampment area for troops during maneuvers. Maj. Gen. George S. Patton brought his 2nd Armored Division, "Hell on Wheels," from Fort Benning, Georgia for maneuvers.



Camp Forrest tent city.



Downtown Tullahoma circa 1940's.

Incoming troops were provided with amenities such as service clubs, guest houses, library, post exchanges, post office, hospital, religious services, theaters, show-ers, Red Cross, and Army emergency relief. Recreation facilities included swimming, archery, tennis, a sports arena and a 9-hole golf course.

Northern Field, an air training base, was an addition for war preparation. The field was used as a training site for crews of multi-engined B-24 bombers of the Army Air Force.

Camp Forrest officially became a Prisoner of War Camp on May 12, 1942. The camp received, housed, secured, and administrated Italian, Japanese and German POWs. Prisoners were processed as laborers at Camp Forrest, the hospitals and in the local community on farms.

In 1945 the U.S. government implemented an Intellectual Diversion Program which would enlighten Germany on American way of life and increase their appreciation for our country. This program used educational and recreational media to change views of POW's. The program was successful with many prisoners.

Tullahoma was greatly affected by the installation of Camp Forrest. Because of maneuvers and operations, civilians became accustomed to blocked roads, traffic



Army troops on maneuvers.





Camp Forrest prisoner of war camp.

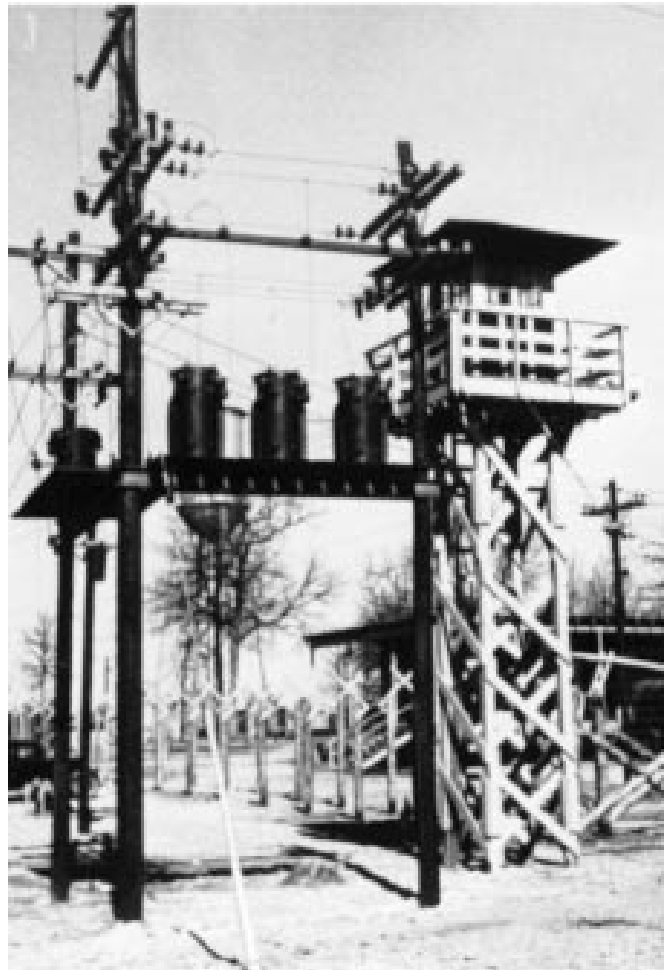
jams, crowded stores, the absence of mail delivery, and driving at night without lights. Soldiers camped out on lawns and fields. Many crops and fences were destroyed.

In 1940 the population in Tullahoma was 4,500. By the end of the war the population had grown to 75,000. Many military people who moved in for construction and operation of the camp remained after the war.

After the war, 1946, Camp Forrest and Northern Field were declared surplus property. Buildings were sold at auction, torn down and carted away. Water and sewerage systems and electrical systems were sold as salvage. All that remains are roads, brick chimneys and concrete foundations.

Soon after the close of the camp, the area was selected for the site of an Air Engineering Development Center. In 1951 that center was dedicated by President Truman and renamed The Arnold Engineering Development Center in honor of General Henry H. "Hap" Arnold.

Arnold Engineering Development Center (AEDC) is the most advanced and largest complex of flight simulation test facilities in the world with more than 50 aerodynamic and propulsion wind tunnels, rocket and turbine engine test cells, space environmental chambers, arc heaters, ballistic ranges and other specialized units. Twenty-seven of the center's test units have capabilities unmatched elsewhere. Facilities can simulate flight conditions from sea level to altitudes around 100,000 feet, and from subsonic velocities to those well over Mach 20.



Camp Forrest guard tower.

Units stationed at Camp Forrest:

193rd Glider Infantry Regiment
194th Glider Infantry Regiment
513th Parachute Infantry Regiment
17th Airborne Division Artillery
680th Glider Field Artillery Battalion
681st Glider Field Artillery Battalion
466th Parachute Field Artillery Battalion
155th Airborne Anti-Aircraft Artillery Bn.
139th Airborne Engineer Battalion
517th Airborne Signal Company
HHC, 17th Airborne Division
717th Airborne Ordnance Company
411th Airborne Quartermaster Co.
17th Airborne MP Platoon
17th Parachute Maintenance Company
224th Airborne Medical Company
Army Service Forces baker and cook school
WAC detachments
48th Medical Depot Company
415th Artillery Group
1457th Service Command Unit of Army Service Forces
71st Army Air Force Base Unit of the 104th

Weather Group

737th AAF Base Unit of the 107th Army Airways

Communications System Squadron

AT Btry, 1st Bn, 191st FA
HQ&HQ Co., 183rd Tank Bn.
Service Btry, 2nd Bn., 181st Field Artillery Btry
Co. A, 183rd Tank Bn.
Co. B, 183rd Tank Bn.
Co. C, 183rd Tank Bn.
HQ Btry, 2nd Bn., 191st FA
Btry H, 2nd Bn., 191st FA
HQ Btry, 3rd Bn., 191st FA
HQ 765th Tank Bn.
HQ.HQ. Co. 765th Tank Bn.
Co. A, 765th Tank Bn.
Co. B, 765th Tank Bn.
Co. C, 765th Tank Bn.
Recon Co., 775th Tank Bn.
HQ Btry, 959th FA Bn.
Service Btry, 959th FA Bn.
Btry A, 959th FA Bn.
Btry B, 959th FA Bn.
Btry C, 959th FA Bn.
107th Cavl. Reg., Horse Mech (Ohio)
33rd Inf. Div. (Ill. Nat'l Guard)

